

BETTY T. YEE, MEMBER STATE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION

Serving the 8.5 million Californians of the First Equalization District, comprised of 21 counties along the northern and central California coast, including the entire San Francisco Bay Area.



JULY 2011 CELEBRATIONS

July is the first full month of summer and one that offers many events and activities. Families and friends come together to enjoy outdoor activities such as local fairs and festivals, including the annual tradition of celebrating the Fourth of July.



Independence Day

Independence Day, commonly known as the Fourth of July, is a national holiday in the United States commemorating the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, declaring independence from the Kingdom of Great Britain. Independence Day is commonly associated with fireworks, parades, political speeches and ceremonies, and various other public and private events celebrating the history, government, and traditions of the United States.

Events & Activities

- California Fairs and Festivals – July
- Fourth of July Schedule of Events (Davis, CA)
- Ol' Fashioned 4th of July Parade (Half Moon Bay)
- 4th of July Events – California Redwood Coast
- Napa Valley – July Events
- Sonoma County – July Events
- Point Arena Independence Day Celebration Festivities – Point Arena, CA

July 4th Observance

- In 1777, thirteen gunshots were fired, once at morning and again as evening fell, on July 4 in Bristol, Rhode Island. Philadelphia celebrated the first anniversary with an official dinner for the Continental Congress, toasts, 13-gun salutes, speeches, prayers, music, parades, troop reviews, and fireworks. Ships were decked with red, white, and blue bunting.
- In 1779, July 4 fell on a Sunday. The holiday was celebrated on Monday, July 5.
- In 1781, the Massachusetts General Court became the first state legislature to recognize July 4 as a state celebration.
- In 1791 the first recorded use of the name "Independence Day" occurred.
- In 1820 the first Fourth of July celebration was held in Eastport, Maine which remains the largest in the state.
- In 1870, the U.S. Congress made Independence Day an unpaid holiday for federal employees.
- In 1938, Congress changed Independence Day to a paid federal holiday.